

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 00883 021642Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 HA-05 ACDA-12 /090 W
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O R 021611Z MSH 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7213
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDEV, SF, WA
SUBJ: NAMIBIA: THE MOOD AS SEEN IN THE MEDIA

1. SOUTH AFRICAN MEDIA ARE CURRENTLY STRESSING THAT THE
CRITICAL QUESTION ON THE NAMIBIAN ISSUE NOW IS THE FIRMNESS
OF THE WESTERN POWERS IN RESISTING "ENORMOUS" PRESSURES FROM
SWAPO AND ITS FRIENDS TO MODIFY THE FIVE-POWER PROPOSAL. DIE
BURGER, NATIONAL PARTY ORGAN IN THE CAPE ON MAY 1 WARNED THE
WEST AGAINST AMENDMENTS THAT WOULD SUIT SWAPO BUT WHICH "WOULD
BE TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE TO SOUTH AFRICA AND THE PEOPLE OF
SOUTH WEST AFRICA." COMMENT, HOWEVER, HAS GENERALLY BEEN
CAUTIOUS ABOUT SWAPO'S ULTIMATE DECISION AND THE FATE OF
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PAGE 02 CAPE T 00883 021642Z

THE PLAN IN THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL.

2. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF SAM NUJOMA'S SPEECH,
ANTI-SAG STATEMENTS IN THE UNGA SPECIAL SESSION HAVE
RECEIVED SCANTY COVERAGE. ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE
HAS BEEN PROMINENT COVERAGE OF REPORTED REMARKS BY

AMBASSADORS YOUNG AND MURRAY TO THE EFFECT THAT
THE PLAN CANNOT BE CHANGED TO SUIT SWAPO.

3. NOTABLY, THERE HAS BEEN NO FURTHER MEDIA DISCUSSION
OR ELABORATION OF THE INTERPRETIVE POINTS MADE BY VORSTER IN
HIS APRIL 25 STATEMENT OF ACCEPTANCE. LIKEWISE, PRESS REPORTS
FROM NEW YORK OF AN ANTICIPATED WESTERN DECLARATION ON WALVIS
BAY (CAPE TOWN 871), WHILE NOTED, HAVE NOT BEEN FEATURED OR
EDITORIALLY DISCUSSED.

4. THERE IS AS YET NO SENSE OR URGENCY REGARDING
RESOLUTION OF THE QUESTION. THE PRESS AND SABC HAVE
REPORTED AN INCREASED RATE OF TERRORIST INCIDENTS IN
NAMIBIA (CAPE TOWN 876), BUT THERE HAVE SO FAR BEEN NO
EDITORIAL DEMANDS OR STATEMENTS FROM PRO-SAG LEADERS
IN NAMIBIA INDICATING THAT A UN DECISION ON THE
WESTERN PROPOSAL MUST BE RESOLVED IMMEDIATELY ONE WAY
OR THE OTHER. (AN INCREASE IN SWAPO TERRORIST ACTIVITY
AT THIS TIME WOULD NOT BE UNEXPECTED, BUT WE HAVE NO
WAY TO VERIFY THE ACCURACY OF THE SAG REPORTS.)

5. MEANWHILE, MEDIA COMMENT CONTINUES TO STRESS
THE FAR REACHING ADVANTAGES FOR SOUTH AFRICA OF
THE SAG DECISION ON THE PROPOSAL. "THE CURSE OF ISOLATION,"
DIE BURGER ENTHUSED ON APRIL 28, "...HAS BEEN
LIFTED."

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PAGE 03 CAPE T 00883 021642Z

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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